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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK48//

TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR DR. KISSINGER

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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH42421

TOHAK48

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY

JULY 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:  
FROM:

THE PRESIDENT  
HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDO RAIDS AGAINST LEBANON: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE ISRAELIS CARRIED OUT NAVAL COMMANDO RAIDS AGAINST THREE LEBANESE PORTS LAST EVENING, SINKING SEVERAL SHIPS IN EACH LOCATION. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES AND THE ISRAELIS CLAIM THAT THEIR TROOPS ALL RETURNED SAFELY TO BASE.

TANAKA MAKES MEDIOCRE SHOWING IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION: WITH BETTER THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF THE VOTE COUNTED, PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) HAS PRESERVED A MAJORITY OF ONLY 2-4 SEATS IN THE UPPER HOUSE OF THE DIET. THE GENERAL EXPECTATION WAS THAT TANAKA AND HIS LDP WOULD AT LEAST HOLD ON TO THE EIGHT-SEAT MARGIN THAT IT WENT INTO THE JULY 7 ELECTION WITH. ALTHOUGH THE RECORD TURNOUT VOTE (73 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS) GAVE TANAKA'S LDP LESS THAN HOPED FOR, THE RESULT NEVERTHELESS IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PROSPECTS LAST SPRING, WHEN IT WAS THOUGHT LIKELY THAT HE WOULD LOSE HIS UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY.

EARLY ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS INDICATES THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR HIS MEDIOCRE SHOWING WERE:

- VOTER DISSATISFACTION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DONE MORE TO CURB JAPAN'S HIGH RATE OF INFLATION.
- A BACKLASH FROM THE UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT TANAKA SPENT TO GAIN A VICTORY IN HIS CAMPAIGN -- ESTIMATES RUN AS HIGH AS \$90 MILLION.

THE SHORT-RUN CONSEQUENCES FOR TANAKA ARE LIKELY TO BE:

- THAT HE WILL LOSE PART OF THE GROUND WITHIN THE PARTY THAT HE HAS REGAINED WITHIN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, AND THAT FINANCE MINISTER FUKUDA AND OTHERS WILL STEP UP THEIR CRITICISM OF HIM -- ALTHOUGH THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO MOUNT A SERIOUS CHALLENGE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.
- THAT HE WILL NOT HAVE STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION IN THE DIET SUFFICIENTLY TO PUSH THROUGH LONG-CHERISHED DOMESTIC PROJECTS SUCH AS ELECTORAL REDISTRICTING AND

DOS Review Completed

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PARLIAMENTARY REFORM THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE LDP'S LEGISLATIVE POSITION.

-- THAT HE WILL CONTINUE HIS CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR THREATENED: NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SCASA HAS RECEIVED A THREATENING NOTE ALLEGEDLY FROM THE SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY. THE LETTER CHARGED HIM AND FORMER PRESIDENT GENERAL SOMOZA AND OUR AMBASSADOR TURNER SHELTON, WITH CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPLOITING THE NICARAGUAN POOR AND OPPOSING CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TIGHTENED AND THE FBI IS SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ORIGIN AND AUTHENTICITY OF THE LETTER.

MEXICAN

MEXICAN DEMARCHE RE CUBA: ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA CALLED IN AMBASSADOR JOVA TO DISCUSS CUBA POLICY AND ECHEVERRIA'S UPCOMING TRIP TO SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. RABASA SAID CUBA WOULD BE A PRIMARY SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION IN MOST OF THE COUNTRIES ECHEVERRIA WOULD BE VISITING (ECUADOR, PERU, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND VENEZUELA). HE SAID MEXICO UNDERSTANDS DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT MOVE TO REESTABLISH BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA. ECHEVERRIA WANTED TO INFORM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT HE WOULD ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTION BY HIS HOSTS AND HE WOULD SEEK SUPPORT FOR CUBAN ATTENDANCE AT THE NEXT HEMISPHERIC MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT BUENOS AIRES NEXT MARCH. ECHEVERRIA BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO REVISE ITS CUBA POLICY BY LENDING SUPPORT TO THESE INITIATIVES AND ALSO BY TAKING STEPS TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT IS HIS HOPE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL AT LEAST BEGIN TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. RABASA ADDED THAT HE INTERPRETED CASTRO'S MORE TEMPERATE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. AND HIS RECENTLY STATED WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH ME (ON THE CONDITION THAT THE EMBARGO BE LIFTED) AS SIGNALS. HE SAID HE HOPED HE WOULD, IN TURN, SEND SOME SIGNALS WHICH WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO AN EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION.

ARGENTINA--NUCLEAR ENERGY: ARGENTINA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM REFLECTS AN INTENT ULTIMATELY TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN ENCUMBRANCES. THE SELECTION OF REACTOR TYPES EASILY ADAPTABLE TO PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY MILITARY RECOMMENDATIONS. ARGENTINA HAS NOT SIGNED THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, ALLEGEDLY TO KEEP OPEN ITS OPTION FOR DEVELOPING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

ARGENTINA'S FIRST REACTOR, BUILT BY A GERMAN FIRM, HAS RECENTLY BECOME OPERATIONAL, AND ANOTHER REACTOR IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY A CANADIAN FIRM. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED ON ARGENTINE FIRMS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY AND FOR THE REACTIVATION OF A PILOT CHEMICAL SEPARATION PLANT FOR THE PROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL FROM RESEARCH REACTORS. ARGENTINA HAS TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND ALSO HAS THE BENEFIT OF

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No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/10/22 : LOC-HAK-550-1-21-6

SUBSTANTIAL NATURAL URANIUM RESERVES.

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